

Claims

I claim:

1. A database system comprising:

a search engine for searching a database;

an input/output control section that controls input of a keyword and output of a search result found by searching the database using the search engine; and

a search system control section that determines a display manner of the keyword responsive to an effectiveness measure of the keyword before the search is performed;

wherein the input/output control section displays the keyword on a predetermined display section in the display manner determined by the search system control section.

2. The database system of claim 1, wherein the effectiveness measure is a hit ratio of the keyword in the database.

3. The database system of claim 1, wherein the effectiveness measure is a number of hits of the keyword in the database.

4. A database system according to claim 1, wherein the display manner specifies a color, and the input/output control section displays the keyword in the specified color.

5. A database system according to claim 1, wherein the search system control section

acquires the effectiveness measure of the keyword by referring to a table that includes the keyword and the number of hits of the keyword in the database.

6. A database system according to claim 1, wherein the input/output control section separates the keyword into parts, based on a special character representing punctuation of the keyword, and the search system control section determines display manners of the parts.

7. A terminal device comprising:

input control means for receiving a keyword for use in a database search and displaying the keyword using a display section; and

display manner control means for controlling a display manner of the keyword that is displayed using the display section, based on an effectiveness measure of the keyword.

8. The terminal device of claim 7, wherein the effectiveness measure is a hit ratio of the keyword in the database.

9. The terminal device of claim 7, wherein the effectiveness measure is a number of hits of the keyword in the database.

10. A terminal device according to claim 7, wherein the display manner control means changes a display color of the keyword responsive to the effectiveness measure of the keyword.

11. A terminal device according to claim 7, wherein the display manner control means changes a font of the keyword responsive to the effectiveness measure.

12. A terminal device according to claim 7, wherein the display manner control means selects character decoration to display the keyword responsive to the effectiveness measure.

13. A terminal device according to claim 7, wherein the display manner control means uses a predetermined symbol to display the keyword responsive to the effectiveness measure.

14. A terminal device according to claim 7, wherein the input/output control section separates the keyword into parts, based on a special character representing punctuation of the keyword, and the search system control section determines display manners of the parts.

15. A search database server that receives a keyword from an input terminal and conducts a database search using the keyword, said search database server comprising:

a search engine for searching a database;

a search system control section for acquiring an effectiveness measure of the keyword in the database before the search engine searches the database; and

a response processing section for sending, to the input terminal, information about the effectiveness measure of the keyword acquired by the search system control section.

16. The search database server of claim 15, wherein the effectiveness measure is a hit ratio of the keyword in the database.

17. The search database server of claim 15, wherein the effectiveness measure is a number of hits of the keyword in the database.

18. A search database server according to claim 15, wherein the search system control section acquires, per keyword, effectiveness measures of a plurality of keywords by referring to a table that includes the plurality of keywords and corresponding numbers of hits of the keywords in the database, said table used by the search engine.

19. A keyword entry support method for database searches, said method comprising:

receiving a keyword entered by a user;

acquiring information about effectiveness of the keyword; and

displaying the keyword in a display manner responsive to the acquired information about effectiveness.

20. A keyword entry support method according to claim 19, wherein the step of acquiring information about effectiveness includes a step of determining a number of hits of the keyword in the database, and the step of displaying includes a step of specifying a display manner of the keyword responsive to the effectiveness of the keyword.

21. A keyword entry support method according to claim 20, wherein effectiveness is determined by referring to a table that includes the keyword and the number of hits of the keyword in the database, said table used by the search engine.

22. A program product enabling a computer to conduct a database search using a keyword entered from an input terminal, said program product causing the computer to function as:

search means for searching a database;

search system control means for acquiring an effectiveness measure of the

keyword before searching the database; and

response processing means for sending information about the effectiveness measure of the keyword to the input terminal.

23. A program product for enabling a computer to support input of a keyword used for searching a database, said program product including program instructions for modules comprising:

an input control module for receiving entry of a keyword for searching a database and displaying the keyword in a display section; and

a display manner control module for controlling a display manner of the keyword on the display section responsive to an effectiveness measure of the keyword.

24. A program product according to claim 23, wherein the display manner control module causes the computer to change a display color of the keyword responsive to the effectiveness measure.